THE SENIORITE

THE CLASS OF 2009 TAKES THE NEXT STEP IN LIFE

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05.29.09

• After four long, grueling years here at Shaker Heights High School, the class of 2009 is finally moving on to bigger and better things. Here is the annual list of Shaker seniors and the colleges to which they will matriculate. Not every student attending college is listed, because students self-reported their colleges. Nevertheless, it represents a good cross-section of the excellent institutions Shaker students were accepted to.

2009

A

Jefferson Ajayi – Wesleyan University
Alex Almasan – Case Western Reserve University
Perez Ashford – Northern Illinois University

B

Corey Baker - Ohio University
Armond Banks – Saint John's University
Daniel Bardenstein – Stanford University
Marita Beachy - Goshen College
Sophie Beal – Mount Holyoke College
Ben Bell - Case Western Reserve University
Christine Bell – Davidson College
Sophia Bellin-Warren – Columbia University
Kevin Benton – Western Michigan University
James Berts – University of Toledo
Brittany Billups – Cleveland State University
Eric Bokar - The Ohio State University
Jeremy Boone – College of the Canyons
Jillian Boyd – University of Cincinnati
Erin Bozarth – Miami University (OH)
Stephen Brakey – Marietta College
Davaros Bucks – Wilberforce University
Cameron Burks – University of Alabama - Birmingham

C

Gilian Calig – John Carroll University
Michael Carl – University of Colorado at Boulder
Lucas Carrion – Allegheny College
Adam Catlett – The Ohio State University
Soham Chakraborty - North Carolina State
Shannon Charles - Agnes Scott College
Bob Cirillo - The Ohio State University
Hallie Clark – University of Virginia
Joanie Clougherty – Miami University (OH)
Maurice Collier - Miami University (OH)
Michael Cowett – Harvard University
Ryan Cristal – Vanderbilt University
Max Cross – University of Dayton
Katie Crowley – Auburn University
Andrea Csok – John Carroll University

D

Alex Davis - University of Cincinnati
Samara DeBise – Northern Arizona University
Nick Diederich – United States Marine Corps
Alyssa Dietz – Bowling Green State University
Paige Dingess – George Washington University
Simone Duval – University of North Carolina (deferring)

E

Elena Eberhard – Ohio University
Kevin Ekeberg - The Ohio State University

F

Kiera Fedrick – The Ohio State University
Stacy Feeling – University of Virginia
Monéa Finklea – University of Toledo
Robert Fisher – The Ohio State University
Hank Frank – University of Maryland
Heather Froimson – The Ohio State University

G

Ben Giller – Drexel University
Brandon Glover – Notre Dame College (OH)
Hannah Gordon – Dickinson College
Andrew Grannis – Florida Atlantic University
Meg Green – Bowdoin College
Brent Grossman-McKee – Brown University
Bharat Gupta - Case Western Reserve University

H

Nick Hahn – Ohio University
Audrey Hall - Princeton University
Samantha Hartman – Marquette University
Natalie Haubrich – Boston College
Peter Heggs – Case Western Reserve University
Lizzie Helffrich – Michigan State University
Chelsea Hill – Bethune-Cookman University
Kelly Hill – The Ohio State University
Aaron Hirsh – Carleton College
Lauren Holloway – Spelman College
Jasmine Holmes – Virginia State University
Emma Horvath – The Ohio State University
Nicolas Howe – Case Western Reserve University
Andrew Hubbard - Savannah College of Art and Design
Ashley Hudson – Ohio University
Gabrielle Hughley – College of Wooster

J

Diana Jack – Washington University in St. Louis
Jordon Johnson – University of Mary Washington
Tyler Johnson - Cleveland State University

K

Alanna Kaiser – Denison University
Eian Katz – Yale University
Christina Kelly-Nunn – Norfolk State University (VA)
Aaron Kinney – Cedar Valley College
Adria Kinney – Duke University
Ashley King – Ithaca College
Andrea Kirtley-Franks – Morgan State University
Daniel Klodor – University of Notre Dame (IN)
Sam Kohn – University of Toronto
Stuart Kushner – Miami University (OH)

L

Allison Lanese – Michigan State University
Sarah Leonard – University of North Carolina
Matt Licina - Miami University (OH)
Daniel Linehan - Indiana University
Steven London - University of Cincinnati
Chris Longman - Brown University
Jenna Lowry – Ohio University

M

Maya Madison – Syracuse University
Adam Maraschky – St. John's College at Annapolis
Patrick Matthews – Tulane University (deferring)
Emily McCandless – Savannah College of Art and Design
Lindsay McCord – University of Vermont
Anna McDonough – The Ohio State University
Blythe McFadden – Hiram College
Chris McFarlane – Case Western Reserve University
Diana Merriam – The Ohio State University
Wiley Miller – Denison University
Ronnell Mitchell – University of Akron
Michael Mitro – Xavier University
Daniel Murphy - Cornell University

N

Michael Neary – Duke University
Jasmine Noel – New York Institute of Technology
Amy Nezamzedeh – Michigan State University

O

Caitlin O'Connor – Beloit College
Jack O'Connor – Ohio University
Cecilia Orazi – Cleveland Institute of Music
Jason Oscar – University of Pennsylvania

P

Karisma Penn – University of Illinois
Kathy Peter – Washington University in St. Louis
James Phelan - Miami University (OH)
Barry Phillips – University of Toledo
Donna Polk – Kent State University
Mia Pollock – Miami University (OH)
Mikaela Pope – Wilmington College

R

Adam Ratner – The Ohio State University
Jeff Reese - Guilford College
Rayna Rogers – Miami University (OH)
Charday Robinson - Glenville State College
Erin Rucker – Lincoln University
Justine Ryu – Boston University

S

Ellie Seitz – University of Vermont
Loren Shatten – The Ohio State University
Zach Silberman – Allegheny College
Alexis Sims – University of Cincinnati
David Singh - Kent State University
Kristen Sinicariello – Williams College
Jeremy Shapero – Washington University in St. Louis
Casey Slive – The Ohio State University
Ayanna Smith – Williams College
Ariana Smith-Bland – John Carroll University
Sara Somach - Lafayette College
Kelly Sommers – Marietta College
Candice Stargell – University of Akron
Aleena Starks - Ohio University
Will Stotter - Ithaca College
Patrick Sutorius - Santa Clara University
Andrea Swain – Miami University (OH)
Alexa Sykes – Elon University

T

Alyssa Taylor – The Ohio State University
Sam Thompson - University of Wisconsin
Frank Triozzi - Allegheny College

W

Jenny Waletzky – Marymount Manhattan College
Amy Wargo – Case Western Reserve University
Jessyca Watson – Loyola University of Maryland
Julie Weiner – Kenyon College
Gabriel Weinstein – Ohio University
Rachel Whitman-Rush – Ohio University
Craig White – Cleveland Institute of Art
Taylor Wilson – Ohio University
Rachyl Wright – Spelman College
Tai Wright-Bey – Johnson C. Smith University

Y

Nathanie Yaskey - New York University

Z

Joel Zarders - Berea College
Ricky Zucker - Kent State University

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COVER SHOTS

Clockwise from top left: Shaker seniors celebrate in the courtyard on the last days of real classes; ladies from the class of 2009 pose on the beach at the end of the 2007-08 school year; seniors Daniel Bardenstein and Daniel Murphy beat out cadences in the courtyard during the celebratory parade; lots of seniors show their Shaker spirit during a hockey game during the winter; some "white pawn" senior girls show off their costumes used during a racial chess game prank; a participant in lawn day fills a cup with *root beer* from the *root beer* keg seniors spent $140 on for Lawn Day (taken away by the administration). Photos courtesy of Rachyl Wright and Jasmine Noel

From bottom to top, high school was a climb

SIMONE DUVAL

So, this is it.

This is the end of what is supposed to be the four most influential years of our lives. It's the closing stages of a process which we haven't even realized has been going on: our progression from children to adults, from thinking the world revolves around us to discovering that there is a bigger and better world outside our very own Shaker bubble.

Just looking back to freshman year, I can't help but be amazed by the transformation, or metamorphosis, if you will, that everyone has undergone. Who knew that those little freshmen of the Class of 2009 would produce the incredibly talented, intelligent, athletic and polished adults that we are today? Who could've dreamed that those runts would be accepted by 200-plus colleges, or would be featured in the Plain Dealer and ESPN's RISE magazine for their athletic accomplishments? That those insignificant underclassmen would break the mold in terms of graduating early and working at prestigious internships for the rest of the year, or by sacrificing a year of high school to live in a different country? No one saw it coming; least of all, us.

Yet high school allowed us to begin at the bottom and rise to the top. Starting out at the bottom of the stairs of success might have intimidated some by the huge climb that lay before them. But the Class of 2009 wouldn't have it. Through countless disappointments (eh-hmmm, enter the canceled Back-To-School Dance, a half-hearted attempt to salvage the remnants of Lawn Day and a boo-boo Senior Lounge), we have managed to emerge unscathed and unphased from our arduous climb, partly due to our own determination and hard work, but also due to guiding teachers and instructors. They showed us the right path to take, and helped us when we stumbled or got lost along the way. They've been there to help us through the scariness of freshmen classes, the craziness of standardized tests, and the ridiculousness of college recs. Without them, we couldn't have made it.

Yet on the other hand, they couldn't have made it without us. When you think about it, we're the ones that made them look good. We're the ones that pulled off the 37 National Merit Semifinalist and Commended Student slots, the creative geniuses that decided to get root beer and not real beer for Lawn Day, the ones that decided to play it safe and not get arrested for oh, say, streaking around the track after TP-ing the entire school. So really, the administration should be thanking us for taking the punches and rolling with them for the entirety of our high school career, and not deciding to play dirty when we were forced down.

Therefore, Shaker, you're welcome. We were pleased to have known you (in most cases), happy to have grown up with you and all your ridiculous rules and requirements, and a little (okay, very) sad to be leaving something we've grown so comfortable with. However. . .college is about to be sweet. Class of '09, we've done our time.

WE UP.

WE COULD MISS THIS STUFF, MAYBE

10: SENIOR HALLWAY SHENANIGANS

"Ya'll gotta move ya'll legs in!" It is evident that stretching your legs out in the morning is inappropriate behavior for a Shaker student, and thus, we were forced to bend our legs uncomfortably hard. Shaker security guards, we will miss your insane demands and unnaturally loud voices.

9: THE FRONT LAWN KIDS

ALEXA SYKES

They never fail to be at school at all hours of the evening running back and forth, playing Frisbee, cuddling with their significant others or walking across the street and smoking. Regardless of how strange we might find their habits, they are in fact the most diverse group of students at Shaker. Props, lawn kids.

8: THE LOUNGE

Being in the same location as underclassmen who took it upon themselves to roam through the lounge, along with the fact that we didn't even get the renovated part of the cafeteria was unpleasant. Nonetheless, a daily ping pong fix never hurt anyone. Ms. Rossi was also a nice addition after a few months into the school year.

7: UP AND DOWN STAIRCASES

Where else have you ever been that had arrows painted on the walls directing you to your desired destination? Where else can you get all the way to the landing of a stairwell and get turned away? Finally, when you arrive to your class (late, panting and sweating, mind you), why your teacher accept your stairs sob story as an excuse?

6: THE 7:30 P.M. ATTENDANCE OFFICE CALL

"This is Shaker Heights High School with a recorded message, please hold: This is Shaker Heights High School calling to inform you that your child, Blank Blank was absent for periods 1,2, 3, 4/5..." This is the time when we all hang up, thankful that our guardians did not answer the phone first. Thank you, Shaker, for making it so easy to skip classes.

5: SCHOOL DANCES

Nothing beats a Saturday night with police officers roaming through a high school dance, searching for inebriated adolescents or people getting their grooves on. Dancing in the North Gym was also wild this year, with so much open space for everyone to creep on everyone else.

4: SHAKER SLANG

Frankly, deleting the word "sawds" from our vocabularies is going to be a very difficult transition in college next year. It is just so useful for so many undesirable situations. For example, if you're ready to go on project but you find out that you have $200 dollars in book fines but no allowance money left: sawds. If you're an underclassmen at Shaker and you still have a few years left until you can get out: sawds.

3: SHAKER SECURITY GUARDS

Honestly, there is nothing like them. "Do you have a pass?" "No," you reply, explaining that you are simply getting a drink of water and returning to your initial location. "You gotta go back and get a pass you can't be out here without a pass go get a pass" they incessantly reply. Thank you, Shaker, for making it impossible to get an innocent drink of water.

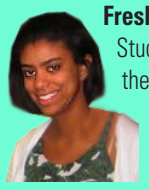
2: THE OVAL

Parking at Shaker is always an ordeal. There is no such thing as arriving at a decent time in the morning and being able to easily slide into a spot. No, you either have to accumulate scratches on your vehicle by attempting to parallel park, or be verbally assaulted by security guards who camp out in the teachers' parking lot. You could always go the illegal route, but Shaker police actually started cracking down and handing out those lovely salmon-colored tickets.

1: THE CLASS OF 2009

(This was meant to be sappy). Honestly, we were probably the most unspirited, cliquey and unsociable class that Shaker has seen in years, but we still have love for the Class of 2009. We're 500 strong, notorious for dating underclassmen, rarely seen at parties, and constantly get the short end of the stick, but we at least deserve a slow clap, if not a round of applause. Since freshman year arrows have been painted, the cafeteria has been redone, the boiler has exploded, the lounge has been demolished, Lawn Day privileges have been revoked, dances cancelled and infiltrated, the US hockey game cancelled, and OGT week has been interrupted by a lockdown, but we made it (with several complaints and angrily-written Shakerite articles). The Class of 2009 just might be remembered by the things just listed here, but at the end of the day, we're the last year you can say "oh" in front of, so there.

POPULAR SONGS REFLECT EACH YEAR OF OUR HIGH SCHOOL CAREERS: CHECK IT OUT



ADRIA KINNEY

Freshman Year-Over My Head, The Fray

Students with beards? Kids who smoke during school? School dances on Saturday nights that last beyond 9:00? Final exams? I think I speak for the entire class of 2009 when I say that August of 2005 was one of the most overwhelming months of my life. Freshman year was a series of surprises, one after the other, and it was a constant battle just to try and keep up with the upperclassmen. By the time we finally figured out that signing in with a substitute constitutes being present for an entire class period, or the real reason why so many kids are absent on April 20, the year was already over.

Sophomore Year-We Fly High, Jim Jones

"Ballin!" With this nonsensical word that came complete with its own obnoxious hand gesture, the class of 2009 proudly celebrated the fact that we were no longer freshmen and truly seemed to be riding high. We memorized the layout of the high school, got our drivers' licenses (or at least perfected the skill of being a shameless mooch for rides), and moved up a section at the hockey games. Not yet hit with the academic stresses and pressures of junior year but no longer the lowest on the totem pole, sophomore year was defined by this Jim Jones Billboard hit.

Junior Year- Stronger, Kanye West

That which did not kill us, certainly made us stronger. The year that everyone told us would be the most heavily considered when applying to colleges came with a load of both expected and unexpected stressors. We struggled through difficult classes, taxing standardized exams, and grueling sessions with our guidance counselors, all while trying to deal with cliquey classmates, friends' drama-filled lives, and quarter-life crises. Somehow, though, we made it out alive, and maybe even learned something in the process.

Senior Year-Whatever You Like, T.I.

Unlike in the T.I. song that topped charts for weeks during the winter, by midyear, it was starting to seem like the class of 2009 was getting far from whatever we liked; our class has witnessed more than our fair share of angry adults and sudden policy changes. And although we may not have always been particularly patient every time we felt as though our liberty was being threatened, preferring to complain and loudly profess that we just can't wait until next year at Fill-In-The-Blank University, in the end, I truly believed that everything worked itself out. And, more importantly, we laughed and cried with the people we are going to be friends with forever, we exchanged timid smiles with those we were just getting to know, and learned how to make peace with the ones we have never really liked. We (usually) went to class, especially second semester, we (sometimes) did our homework on time, and (some of us) didn't get too stressed out even though Naviance told us we're never going to get into college. Ultimately, senior year has taught me this: life can truly be whatever you like it to be. It's up to us, 2009, to take that message with us next year, wherever we may go.